Order to catch performing animals used by Kalandars

1532.SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered catching of performing animals used by the Kalandars;

(b) if so, whether the order has been complied with;

(c) whether any alternative source of livelihood has been offered to them; and

(d) if so, what are those?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The exhibition of animals for the purpose of entertainment is a cruelty inflicted on animals and as such is an offence under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960). This Ministry *vide* Notification dated 14th October 1998 has banned five (5) animals *viz.* bears, monkeys tigers, panthers and lions for exhibition and training as performing animals. Whenever any instance of violation of provisions of the aforesaid Act/ Notification by anyone including Kalandars is brought to the notice of this Ministry or any state wildlife departments, the concerned officials take appropriate action.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from the representatives of the Kalandars for their rehabilitation. Suitable proposals are being discussed with the representatives of the Kalandars for sanctioning loans for income generating schemes through the Corporations functioning under this Ministry and also for their vocational training and educational support under various schemes run by this Ministry. The Ministry has been very prospective in this regard.

Utilization of fund under National Fund for People with Disabilities

1533.SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount granted by Government under National fund for People with Disabilities during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 has been utilized fully;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this respect;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for utilisation of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance was provided to organiszations for training of volunteers under Vikiang Bandhu Scheme and for providing aids to visually disabled persons. Details of the grant are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Statement

Details of grant provided to various organisations under National Fund for people with disabilities

Name of the Organisation	Amount.
Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 95,295/-
Gramanchal Vikash Sansthan Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Janki Gramothan Mahila Bal Vikas Sansthan, Sultanpur (UP)	Rs. 90,345/-
Kerala Federation of the Blind, Trivandrum	Rs. 1,00,000/-
The Orissa Association for the blind Malgodown (Orissa)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
CARDS' Comprehensive Action for Rural Development, Krishna Distt. (AP)	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Chetna Trust, Mysore-8	Rs. 1,00,000/-
Dahikhai Jubak Sangha, Distt. Nayagarh, Orissa	Rs. 1,00,000/-
NIVH, Dehradun (UP)	Rs. 2,00,000/-

1534. [Cancelled]

Regional Centres for Composite Services for various Disabilities

1535. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to set up regional